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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Committee on Commodities
Committee on Tungsten
Twenty-third session
Geneva, 18 November 1991
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

# PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

## I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Examination of statistics and review of the current market situation and outlook

4. Consideration of ways, means and measures to improve the functioning and stability of the tungsten market through strengthened international cooperation between Governments and industries of producing and consuming countries

5. Consideration of industry views on particular aspects of the tungsten industry

6. Consideration of project proposals by Governments and industry which could be submitted for possible financing under the Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities

7. Provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth session of the Committee

8. Other business

9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Tungsten to the Committee on Commodities

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## II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

Following its usual practice, the Committee should elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur. It is recalled in this respect that the twenty-second session was chaired by the representative of a tungsten-producing country while the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur at that session was the representative of a tungsten-consuming country.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda in section I above was agreed on by the Committee during its twenty-second session.

Item 3: Examination of statistics and review of the current market situation and outlook

This item will be taken up in the Sessional Working Group of the Committee. The first meeting of the Group will be opened by the Chairman of the Committee in the afternoon of the first day of the session and it will meet for a maximum of two days as provided for in its terms of reference and operating procedures.1/ With a view to assisting the Sessional Working Group in its consideration of this item, the secretariat prepared a report entitled "Recent developments and short-term outlook in the tungsten market" (TD/B/C.1/TUNGSTEN/89). Suggestions concerning the organization of the work of the Group are annexed hereto.

Item 4: Consideration of ways, means and measures to improve the functioning and stability of the tungsten market through strengthened international cooperation between Governments and industries of producing and consuming countries

This item is largely a follow-up to item 3. In the light of the discussion under the latter item, consideration may be given, as appropriate, to areas where it is possible to strengthen international cooperation between Governments and industries of producing and consuming countries with a view to improving the functioning and stability of the tungsten market.

Item 5: Consideration of industry views on particular aspects of the tungsten industry

This item has been included on the agenda following the call made by the Committee at its twenty-second session for greater participation by industry advisers. It will be devoted to considering industry views on particular aspects of the tungsten market, such as new end-uses and other technological developments, substitution, recycling and environment, as well as research and development activities. Committee members are urged to include industry representatives in their delegations in order to allow the Committee to benefit from their knowledge and experience during the discussions. Two guest speakers have been invited to make presentations on topics related to the above areas.

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1/ See Report of the Committee on Tungsten on its sixteenth session (TD/B/C.1/268 - TD/B/C.1/TUNGSTEN/55, annex).

Item 6: Consideration of project proposals by Governments and industry which could be submitted for possible financing under the Second Account of the Common Fund for Commodities

Following its designation as an International Commodity Body by the Executive Board of the Common Fund, the Committee is qualified to sponsor appropriate tungsten-related projects for possible financing through the Second Account of the Common Fund. In a note verbale dated 17 May 1991, Committee members were informed of the above decision and invited to send their project proposals to the UNCTAD secretariat as soon as possible. In order to assist the Committee in its consideration of this item, the secretariat has prepared a note providing relevant information on, inter alia, the procedures laid down by the Common Fund for submission of project proposals as well as its guidelines and criteria for the selection and financing of projects through the Second Account (TD/B/C.1/TUNGSTEN/90). Project proposals received by the secretariat are presented in addenda to the above-mentioned document.

Item 7: Provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth session of the Committee

In the light of discussions, the Committee may wish to consider the provisional agenda for its next session.

ANNEX

ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP OF THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TUNGSTEN

The Sessional Working Group will commence its work in the afternoon of the first day of the session and will meet for a maximum of two days. As provided for in its terms of reference and operating procedures, the officers of the Sessional Working Group will be the officers of the current session of the Committee on Tungsten.

In order for the Sessional Working Group to achieve the objectives of its terms of reference, it is recommended that Committee members include industry representatives in their delegations so that during the discussions the Group may benefit from their knowledge of the market and of technical issues. The major tasks of the Sessional Working Group consist of the examination of statistics and review of the current market situation and outlook, corresponding to item 3 on the provisional agenda.

For the examination of statistics, the secretariat will provide statistical summaries compiled from various sources, including replies from Governments to the secretariat's quarterly questionnaire, national publications and trade journals; the summaries also contain estimates made by the secretariat. For greater transparency, it would be particularly useful if comments were made on the secretariat's estimates of production, consumption and trade, about which there is little published information. If additional information could be provided to the secretariat for supplementing the existing information it would be greatly appreciated. The Sessional Working Group is expected to examine and, through its deliberations, to amplify and improve the available statistics. The examination of the statistics would be facilitated if information from Governments could be made available to the secretariat no later than the first day of the session.

With regard to the review of the current market situation and outlook, it is proposed that it should proceed as follows:

(a) Examination of the report prepared by the secretariat on the current world market situation and outlook for tungsten (TD/B/C.1/TUNGSTEN/89);

(b) Presentation of national statements by Governments to review the current situation and outlook in national markets, as well as the global market;

(c) Contributions by industry advisers to cover the global or national market situation and outlook or both, and aspects influencing trends and developments in the tungsten market;

(d) Preparation of an assessment of the current situation and outlook for the international tungsten market, which will be included in the report of the Sessional Working Group for consideration by the Committee.

In accordance with its terms of reference, the task of the Sessional Working Group is to review, examine and provide information on trends and developments in the market in respect of production, consumption, trade, stocks and other key factors, such as structural and technological change,

both short-term and long-term, influencing these trends and developments. The aim is principally to enable the Group to prepare an assessment of the current situation and outlook for the international tungsten market, analysing all factors relevant to the market and including as much statistical detail as possible.

In accordance with paragraph 5 of its terms of reference, the Sessional Working Group will submit its report to the Committee on Tungsten for consideration.